



SANTA FE COUNTY OPEN SPACE STEWARDS

Project Goal

Effective long-term stewardship of 10,000 acres of open space in Santa Fe County.

Background

Santa Fe, New Mexico like many other counties in the intermountain west is experiencing rapid growth and substantial land use changes. This has led to increasing public concern about negative impacts to the area's rich natural, cultural, and historical resources. In an effort to protect these resources, County voters have approved \$20 million in bonds dedicated to the acquisition of open space significant for "wildlife, mountains, trails, and historic places". With the active participation of a 30-member citizens advisory committee, a long-term open space plan has been developed, including criteria and priorities for initial land acquisition.

RTCA supported the development of the Open Space Plan and is now assisting in developing the strategies and partnerships needed to carry this plan forward, provide for effective stewardship of newly acquired County parcels and build support for a continuing open space program.

Training Volunteer Trail Stewards



National Park Service Role

RTCA is working with the County to:

- Encourage the citizens committee and other stakeholders to play a leadership role in open space planning and promote broad-based community input.
- Organize and facilitate committee and working group meetings.
- Develop – based on input from technical advisors, management partners and other local stakeholders – initial management recommendations for newly acquired Open Space parcels.
- Identify and strengthen partnerships with other conservation organizations that can support open space management.
- Identify supplemental sources of funding for management of properties.
- Bring together existing local or community-based stewardship organizations to develop a countywide volunteer program.

continued

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Project Results to Date

- Organization of a County Open Land and Trails Planning and Advisory Committee.
- Adoption of a Santa Fe County Open Land and Trails Plan.
- Acquisition of over 2,000 acres of open space in 10 priority areas.
- Initial training course for volunteer Open Space Stewards.
- Organization of Interim Management Review Team.
- Public Event to celebrate Open Space.

Stewards are Needed to Protect Archeological Resources



Project Partners

- Santa Fe County
- 1000 Friends of New Mexico
- Audubon Society
- Bureau of Land Management
- Santa Fe Conservation Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- US Forest Service

Contacts

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